

# HERPETOLOGY OF THE SOLOMON ISLANDS.

By

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(Plates xiii-xv and Figures 1-35.)

THE following paper is based on the collection of Solomon Islands reptiles and amphibians in the Australian Museum. The greater portion of this material has been added during the last three years by the efforts of Mr. N. S. Heffernan, District Officer at Ysabel Island, and Mr. C. E. Hart, of Gaudalcanar.

In the past many papers have been written concerning the herpetology of the Solomons, but as they are scattered in many publications, students are precluded from consulting them, unless they have the facilities of a reasonably complete library at their disposal. It was this which prompted me, while working through the collection, to assemble and modify previous descriptions, to republish old and add new figures, and to compile keys to the species, so that future workers will have a complete reference to the reptiles and amphibians of this group of islands.

## BATRACHIA.

### Key to the families (Fig. 1).

- A. Shoulder girdle firmly united, chest not expansible, diapophyses of sacral vertebræ cylindrical or only slightly dilated.
  - B. Upper jaw toothed, skin smooth or warty ..... *Ranidæ*
  - BB. Both jaws toothed, snout, eyelids and other parts bearing thorn-like prominences ..... *Ceratobatrachidæ*
- AA. Shoulder girdle not firmly united, overlapping, chest expansible, diapophyses of sacral vertebræ dilated ..... *Hylidæ*

### Family *RANIDÆ*.

#### Key to the genera.

- A. Vomerine teeth present.
  - B. Toes strongly webbed, fingers free, outer metatarsals connected by a web ..... *Rana*
  - BB. Toes free or with only rudiment of web, fingers free, outer metatarsals united or separated by a groove.
    - C. Fingers and toes with large discs ..... *Cornufer*
    - CC. Fingers and toes cylindrical, no discs ... *Platymentis*
- AA. No vomerine teeth, fingers and toes with large discs.
  - D. Fingers and toes webbed ..... *Hypsirana*
  - DD. Fingers and toes without webs ..... *Batrachylodes*